Benedictine Voices
The News From Benedictine University
St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with a powerful imperative: Listen. And at Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We therefore have named our magazine Benedictine Voices. We pledge that within these pages, members of the Benedictine community will speak with candor about issues facing our University and our world. We cordially invite you to enter into dialogue with us.

Contents

Vision

1 • William J. Carroll, President
   Benedictine University’s 117 Year Story of Sameness and Diversity
   • Benedictine Officially Part Of Lisle
2 • Monastic Perspective
3 • General Tommy Franks (Ret.)
   Gives His Perspective On The Military
4 • Special Feature

Values

philanthropy

20 • Sports Complex Donation Opportunities
21 • Krasa Center Capital Improvement Project
   • Memorial Parkway Plan Is Underway
   • The Time Is Right For A Gift That Gives Back
   • Boxer Donates Winnings

alumni news

22 • Alumni Briefs
   • Alumni Relations Office Has Moved
23 • Meet Your Alumni Executive Board
24 • If The Walls Could Talk
25 • Alma Matters: David Reynolds
26 • Career Transitions Workshop
27 • M.B.A. Alumni Reunion Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Vitality

university news

27 • Former Mississippi Governor Winter Addresses Annual King Day Breakfast
28 • Fast Facts: New M.I.S. Cohort Format; Update: Springfield College in Illinois; M.P.H. Online

class/faculty notes

29 • University of Nebraska Names Callahan Football Coach
   • A New Golden Eagle: Steve Pribil

30 • Class Notes
32 • Web Site Is “Golden”
33 • Faculty/Staff Notes
34 • Benedictine, Lisle Break Ground For New $7 Million Sports Complex
35 • Time Out: Sports Highlights

Spring 2004 | Volume 32 | Number 3

Director of Public Relations
Mercy Robb, M.B.A. ’02

Editor
Linda A. Hale

Writers
Phil Brozynski Fr. James Flint, O.S.B.
William J. Carroll Linda A. Hale
Rita A. Dougherty Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.

Contributors
Pina Arnone Julie Nelligan
Nadia Darwish Dan Nohl
Sandra Gill, Ph.D. Jill Redmond
Alan Gorr, Ph.D., M.P.H. Mercy Robb
Barb Grabowski Debbie Smith
John Mickus, Ph.D.

Photographers
H. Rick Bamman Jeff Knox
Phil Brozynski Julie Nelligan
Nadia Darwish Matt West

Cover Photography
H. Rick Bamman

Art Director
Mary Kay Wolf, Wolf Design

Address Corrections: For address corrections, please contact Advancement Services at (630) 829-6099.

Benedictine Voices is published three times a year by the Office of Public Relations. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Distributed free to alumni, students and friends of the University.

Opinions expressed in Benedictine Voices are not necessarily those of Benedictine University, its administrators, faculty or students.

Letters to the Editor must be signed, and letters not intended for publication should be so indicated.

Please address all mail to:
Benedictine Voices
Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, IL 60532

The artwork photographed on the front cover and throughout the special section of this issue is part of the ceramic mural depicting Benedictine University’s history and is located in Kindlon Hall. It was created by architectural ceramics artist Karen Singer and was commissioned by the Archdiocese of Joliet as a gift to Benedictine University.
Have you ever thought of the people, events, dreams and work that made this University what it is today? If you are a graduate, look through the copy and photos in this issue and put yourself into your moments of growth here. You’ll find threads of sameness and diversity woven together as the college expanded. They come together in this — the University’s story.

It is important that we recall the courage, faith, perseverance and hard work of that handful of persistent Benedictine monks who forged the foundation of this institution — literally building their dream into reality. The earliest days were spent in physical labor, planting, tilling the soil, praying and building. When they opened their doors in 1901, they were ready. We can attest to their hard work and that dream for we are what we are today because of them. They planted adventure and academic growth into academe as well as planting seeds on their farm.

This University has spanned three centuries, and grown from 11 students in 1887 to 2,968 students in Fall of 2003. The school outgrew Benedictine Hall and spread over original cornfields with dormitory buildings and buildings with classrooms, faculty offices, a student center, laboratories, computer labs, etc. The college also brought in technology.

The climate changed over the years from a complete Czech and Slovak environment to an English-speaking campus. The all male residents “welcomed” women on campus in 1968. Our foundation is Catholic and Benedictine, and we value that heritage. However, in the spirit of Benedictine hospitality, all students are welcome here regardless of religion, ethnicity, race or culture.

By the time this institution changed its name to Benedictine University, it had become a global community. Students come to us from many countries. We have a partnership with Springfield College in Springfield, Illinois, formally a Catholic two-year college. Benedictine University began offering junior and senior level courses there. The first graduate course (a Master of Organizational Behavior) will be offered in the near future. Clearly, St. Procopius College — Illinois Benedictine College — Benedictine University has grown into a regional university.

One of our latest ventures is the collaboration with the Village of Lisle on an athletic complex — built on Benedictine property. Ground was broken in February of this year for this very exciting venture for both Benedictine and the Village of Lisle. (See pages 20 and 34.)

Our multicultural community has become a model for all. The University ranks sixth in the Midwest for Diversity according to U.S. News and World Report®. Education, since the days of the Benedictine monastic schools and medieval Catholic universities until the present, has always been less about skills and knowledge than about the development of the human mind to better understand and appreciate the duties and diversity of individuals — in families, neighbors and society.

Enjoy the story of Benedictine University. ✝

Benedictine Officially Part of Lisle

The Village of Lisle formally welcomed Benedictine University within its boundaries this past January. The annexation was the culmination of years of negotiations between the village and the University.

“The annexation positions the University for a wonderful partnership with Lisle,” Benedictine President William Carroll said. The annexation agreement created a new zoning district within the village specifically for Benedictine University. The district allows for the unique needs of the University, including classrooms, laboratory and research facilities, athletic facilities, cultural centers, student lodging, parking and other structures customarily associated with a college or university.

The only noticeable short-term change will be the on-campus presence of Lisle Police rather than members of the DuPage County Sheriff’s office. Long term, the University must now seek village approval for significant renovations and new buildings rather than receiving approval from DuPage county. ✝
FROM 1938 TO 2004

At the May 2002 Baccalaureate Convocation, Bernard Toussaint, Ph.D., (Philosophy) offered some reflections on his experience as a student at St. Procopius College 50 years ago. Something, I think, of the enduring nature — and the enduring strengths — of the school can be seen by juxtaposing several of Toussaint’s remarks with some faculty discussions that took place at St. Procopius in the fall of 1938, just after the international efforts of Chamberlain and Hitler had secured for the world “peace in our time.”

In that era, the academy (the present-day Benet Academy) and the college were still on the same campus and in most respects were thought of as a single institution. Fr. John Cherf, O.S.B., was rector (from 1929-1944) of both the high school and the college “departments,” and a number of faculty members taught on both levels.

The growth of the college from 35 lay students in 1929 to 82 students in 1938 was highlighted by the rector at the faculty meeting of October 4 of that year. A third of the student body was now of non-Slavic background, and there was an increased enrollment of students in courses pertaining to medicine and engineering. Clearly, the development of a highly-trained faculty in the natural sciences, pioneered by Fr. John’s predecessor, Fr. Cosmas Vesely, O.S.B. (rector, 1914-1929), was bearing fruit in a growing number of students coming to St. Procopius to prepare themselves for careers in science-related fields.

At the next meeting on November 8, Fr. John opened the floor for discussion of a question asked in a recent Chicago Tribune survey sent to all the schools in the region: What are the outstanding characteristics of your school? And what gaps does it fill? As was the custom in monastic circles at that time (the 21 faculty members present were all monks), the opportunity to speak was offered first to the junior members of the group, with the last word being reserved, as it were, for the elders.

Several of the younger monks, including the 24-year-old Fr. Stanley Vesely, O.S.B. (in the early stages of a career of service which would keep him busy at the College/University until 1999), remarked on the moral education possible at a Catholic institution. We have in view both the body and the soul, stated Fr. Stanley — that is, the values conducive to developing the whole person.

Toussaint (2002)
Community life was not a theory or slogan but a lived experience. [The teachers] demonstrated the importance of humility, patience, respect for others and self-sacrifice. They showed that true strength comes not from ourselves but from a higher power and is developed through a rich spiritual life. In their own quiet way, they [the monks] taught the meaning of life, not in words but by example.

This theme was developed by one of the leading scientists on campus, the renowned physicist Fr. William Shonka, O.S.B. Lacking the large numbers present at the great state universities was not a disadvantage in his eyes, for the faculty was able to devote itself to character training in a situation where an integrated family spirit was possible.

“The student completes his family spirit was possible. It was an appreciation and celebration of the goodness and beauty of things. Call it the contemplative spirit, if you will; I call it a welcoming spirit.”

Much has changed since 1938 — no longer could we designate ourselves, as one monk happily did then, as a “prairie college.” But it is consoling to think that, if vision statements had been popular in that era, those 21 monks gathered that autumn would have had little
difficulty accepting the one proposed for their school more than 60 years later. Had they been aware that “St. Procopius College” in 2004 would be called “Benedictine University,” we can suppose that they would have been proud to see it defined as “a Catholic university in the Benedictine tradition that provides a values-centered liberal arts education enriched by our excellence in science.”

As with any formula of words, constant effort and attention will be required to make actual, every year, for every student, what here is proclaimed. But the work ahead builds on 117 years of achievement — spiritual, intellectual and physical — achievement and a heritage.

Toussaint (2002)

Now you will leave to seek your fortune. We wish you the best of luck. Go and get rich if you can. But more importantly, live a rich life. Take time to enjoy the beauty around you. Develop your spiritual life. Reach out to help those in need. Try to make the world a little better than you found it. Remember, it is not what you have that makes life rich but how you live it and what you do for others. God be with you.

Toussaint’s address demonstrates that, amidst all the changes on and around the campus, one constant has been the concern of the faculty for the welfare of the students. By example, as well as in lecture halls and laboratories, something of life’s meaning is being shared, in 2004 as in 1938.†

General Tommy Franks (Ret.)
Give His Perspective On The Military

by Phil Brozynski

Retired U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks told more than 1,000 people at the Dan and Ada Rice Center on March 14 that he is not a political person.

“But if you’re looking for someone who serves the United States of America and gives my grandchildren a chance to live in freedom, I’m your guy,” he said.

Franks, the former Commander in Chief of the United States Central Command and the man who led U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, spoke at Benedictine University as part of the Richard C. Becker Great Issues–Great Ideas Lecture Series.

In his speech, Franks spoke at length about the men and women who serve in the armed forces.

“The execution of the plan (to attack Iraq) by the young men and women will be talked about by historians for a thousand years,” he said. “It’s not about generals. It’s not about liking war. It’s about the service of our young patriots.”

Franks defended the decision to invade Iraq, saying “I take great delight that some 50 million people have a chance that they didn’t have before.” He also said that he is unfazed by the perception that America is a “bully.”

“When I think about my grandchildren and their future, it suits me just fine,” Franks said.

Franks interjected some light moments into his presentation.

“My wife Cathy and I live in Tampa,” he said. “We enjoy being the youngest people in town.”

He also told the story about addressing some 3,000 sailors aboard a U.S. aircraft carrier and being taken aback when the ship’s captain left midway through his speech.

“I asked him why he left and he said he had to get a haircut,” Franks said. “I asked him why he didn’t get a haircut before my speech. He said ‘when you started your speech, I didn’t need a haircut.’ ”

Prior to this speech, Franks met with students from Homewood-Flossmoor, Fremd, Lemont, Oswego and Willowbrook high schools during a question-and-answer session in the Krasa Center. Franks was later the guest at a private lunch with University officials and trustees.

NICOR and the Chicago Tribune sponsored Franks’ visit to Benedictine.†
THE STORY OF BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY

A life in balance

by Rita A. Dougherty

with contributions by Fr. James Flint, O.S.B.
Centuries and centuries ago — before the written word, when there were only symbols and the human voice — there were storytellers. These special individuals, the keepers of history, learned how to remember, and tell of remarkable deeds and events of the clan or tribe, from its very beginning. The storytellers held a place of honor in the community, for they were able to weave threads in the events that wove their entire history together. We have had storytellers in different decades of Benedictine University, and it is time to bring it all together, so that many people know the story —

so that you know the story.
IT IS A GREAT STORY THAT BEGAN IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, WHICH MEANS THE LIFE OF THIS INSTITUTION IS EMBEDDED IN THREE CENTURIES. It started in 1887 with a handful of persistent, visionary and faith-filled Benedictine monks who conducted a school for sons of Czech and Slovak immigrants in the Pilsen area on the west side of Chicago. The city was getting too crowded for them and their vision was of fresh air, land and space to grow. So they boarded the Burlington train seeking some land to settle west of Chicago.

In 1887, the first class at St. Procopius College in Chicago had two students. At that time, St. Procopius College was really a high school, but in the European tradition they called it a college. The monks envisioned a building large enough to accommodate a high school, college, business college, abbey and seminary.

The April 18, 1890 corporation papers from the state of Illinois [while the school was still in Chicago] stated: “St. Procopius College of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, was formed to educate young men in all branches which are taught in universities, high schools and business colleges, and to enjoy all rights and privileges as other Institutions of like kind enjoy.”

On April 1, 1896, the monks signed the deed for 104 acres of cornfields and the Neff farmhouse in Lisle, Illinois. Everyone had a job to do. The monks bought more property and developed three parcels of land — a total of 254 acres — into a productive farm operation, capable of supplying milk, eggs, meat, poultry and vegetables for themselves and the boarding school. The next step was to build the school. Whether it was farming or construction work, they spent grueling days working from sunrise to sunset. These pioneer monks were hard workers. Most of them from the Chicago Abbey were born in Bohemia or Moravia, and everything was done (including teaching) in the Czech language. In a short time, St. Procopius College became the center for Czech culture.

Before they turned the first shovel of land for the building which would much later be called Benedictine Hall, Abbot Nepomucene Jaeger, O.S.B., knelt and traced the motto of St. Benedict in the dirt: “That in all things, God may be glorified.” The year was 1900 and that motto is still a hallmark of the institution.

When the first section of the building opened in 1901 and classes began, there were 11 students. The building had classrooms, residential space, rooms and offices for the monks and a chapel. Studies included English, Latin, German, religion, bookkeeping, mathematics, history, composition, typewriting and natural sciences. The third year of high school was added in 1903-04, and in 1904-05, subjects for all four years were taught. Classes in Czech were held six days a week in a rigorous, European schedule. Students who had not completed their elementary schooling were also accepted and tutored until they were ready to follow the secondary course sequence. The school remained very small for some years — annually graduating only five or six students.

Toward the end of the 1904-05 school year, a tradition was established that lasted for nearly 50 years, or as long as the school remained in the style of a late 19th Century boarding school. May Day was a day spent in the woods. The date of that celebration was at the whim of the rector (chief administrator). Awakening on any bright, sunny May morning, he had the class bell rung before the first class period. It led to mayhem for all students recognized that bell. The school band escorted them into the woods for field events, athletic contests, scores of awards and prizes. A horse and wagon hauled hot dogs from the kitchen to the field of activities. A similar outdoor event was held on Columbus Day. It did wonders in settling anxieties and tensions.

By 1906, the enrollment increased so much that facilities were inadequate. The architect for the first section of the building drew up plans for an addition, which was completed in 1908. The monks, with hired help, built that 40-by-30 foot section which became the middle of Benedictine Hall. A west wing was built for the first formal science laboratories and was dedicated in 1913. It formed a “T” jutting west from the main building. An early photograph signifies “Fysika Laborator” — Physics Laboratory in Czech — the campus language. The building contained a biology lab, a “modern” chemistry lab and a physics lab.

Freshman and sophomore college courses were introduced in 1906, and upper-level college courses in the 1908-09 academic year. The curriculum was a continuation of the four-year classical course (high
school). After completing the college junior and senior years, the student received a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1909, tuition, lodging and laundry for five months totaled $80. Eleven years later, it was $150.

The first issue of the school newspaper, Studentske Listy (Student Journal), was produced on May 20, 1908 — a 38-page typewritten paper. In November 1913 the paper was published monthly, then quarterly and continued that way until June 1931. The name changed 10 times over the years, until 1984 when it was named The Candor. Published weekly, it is widely read by administrators, staff, faculty and students.

The first year bachelor's degrees were awarded was 1910. These early years were very busy times for the Benedictines. That same year, 55 Benedictine monks of St. Procopius Abbey celebrated the 25th year of coming to Chicago from St. Vincent Abbey, Pennsylvania. They continued to operate an Abbey, printed two newspapers for the Czech population in Chicago and conducted a high school, college and orphanage in Lisle. The orphanage opened in 1899 on the Rott Farm. It later moved to a 40-acre tract of land across the street, north of the main building. The monks prayed, taught, grew vegetables, tilled the soil, planted trees and shrubs and maintained the buildings. Some monks were assigned to parish work or conducted missions to Czechoslovak communities across the country. These were busy men.

Abbot Jaeger encouraged his Benedictine sister, Sr. Nepomucene Jaeger, to come to the Midwest. With one other sister, one candidate and one dollar, she first came to Chicago and lived in a house on Taylor Street. In 1901, the Sisters came out to Lisle and occupied a small section of the north side of Benedictine Hall. They staffed the kitchen, laundry and dining rooms until 1958. They also staffed the orphanage from 1899 to 1956. In 1912, the sisters moved to Sacred Heart Monastery on the fourth Benedictine quadrant west of the orphanage. They were busy women.

Authorization to transfer the Abbey from Chicago to Lisle came in 1914, and the Abbey’s third addition, the south part of Benedictine Hall, was built in 1915-16. The University has the University of Chicago from St. Vincent Abbey, Pennsylvania. The university has the hand-drawn linen blueprints of that addition. Prior to that time, some teaching monks lived in Lisle and others commuted from Chicago. In 1920, the Abbey petitioned Rome to allow them to send solemnly professed members to secular universities for higher education. They established a seminary for summer classes that drew monks from other Benedictine Abbeys. They also hired a faculty of professors from secular institutions.

World War I had little negative effect on the Abbey and school. Out in the country there was no shortage of meat, chickens, milk, fruit or vegetables. One monk became a military chaplain and there were military drills for students. The possibility of Czech independence was of great interest to monks and students.

Many “we-can-do-it-ourselves” facilities created a unique atmosphere for Christian education. The brothers had areas for carpentry, a butcher shop and blacksmithing. In 1917 and 1919, the Abbey farm and campus were enlarged further by two more land purchases. The present Abbey, built in 1970, is situated on one of those parcels of land. A road eventually split the property and is now College Road. The Abbey was built on a hill across the street from the University where the barn and farmland once stood.

The first experimental summer session to train Benedictine teachers and seminarians began on June 21, 1921. The classics and both sacred and natural sciences continued to be very important in both college and seminary. Summer sessions also raised the academic aspirations of the monks and generated interest in strengthening studies in science. In the 10-year period between 1922-32, at least one monk a year earned a doctorate.

St. Procopius Seminary received accreditation from the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities in Rome in November 1938. The seminary welcomed seminarians from all dioceses until 1967, when it was discontinued because central schools supported by numerous religious congregations or other dioceses were established.

The school had grown so much by 1922 that the school paper, Studentske Listy, proposed the idea of an Alumni Association. The October 1923 issue of the paper announced that the Student Social League was sending out a provisional constitution, by-laws and rules of the St. Procopius Alumni Association to the alumni. At the end of that year, they had 250 names and addresses. Today the alumni office holds more than 15,000 names and addresses. Many alumni keep in contact with the University, and are very involved in fund raising. There are strong loyalties to this institution.

In 1922, Fr. Hilary Jurica, O.S.B., was the first American Benedictine monk to earn a Ph.D. in biology at a secular university — the University of Chicago (U of C). He went on to do post-graduate work in pre-medical studies and taught physiological chemistry. He also organized the zoology department with special emphasis on pre-medical studies. His brother, Benedictine Fr. Edmund Jurica, studied biology, anatomy and physiology and earned his Ph.D. in biology at U of C in 1926. The study of science has always been a vibrant part of the University. As early as March 22, 1925, Fr. Cosmas Vesely, O.S.B., then rector, wrote to Abbot Valentine Kohlbeck, O.S.B., speaking of priorities:

“The only branches which ought to hold commanding positions in our faculty are:

The Classics, because they are traditionally Benedictine — for the last 14 centuries. European Benedictines are internationally known as classical scholars of the highest order;
and; The Sciences, because conditions in America make it imperative. No school can afford to ignore the natural science instruction at present. While the attention of the world is centered on sciences, we must do our share of investigation, or be relegated to an inferior position.9

The Jurica brothers spent summers criss-crossing the country in search of specimens that you can still see in the Jurica Museum today. They maintained a good relationship with other scientists across the country, involving the exchanging of specimens. When the famous gorilla Bushman died he was brought to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. The curator of the Field Museum offered the Juricas his bones for their collection. They are still in the Jurica Museum today.

These two innovative men were teachers and pioneers in visual aids for more than 50 years. They radically changed the method of teaching science. Instead of traditional lectures, they introduced detailed drawings — 700 charts — some for display; some to be filled in by students — of plants and animals. At that time, it was quite an intricate process using a rudimentary projector focused on waterproof paper, tracing the image and then filling it in with colored inks. “A student will retain more easily whatever makes an impression on his mind,” said Fr. Hilary. The science world welcomed the Jurica Biology Charts which were published for national use. They are still used in many classrooms today.

Fr. Hilary and Fr. Edmund also made more than 60,000 microscopic and photographic slides for projection on a screen. Their visual method of teaching was renowned. With a passion for teaching and research, they set the foundation for groundbreaking studies that continue in Benedictine’s science departments today. They firmly believed that science should be taught through “hands-on” methods. Fr. Edmund’s interest also led to an observatory on campus. He personally ground the first 6-inch lens and later, a 16-inch mirror for the telescope.

Two more Benedictine brothers picked up the science challenge: Fr. William Shonka earned a Ph.D. in physics at the U of C in 1933. His brother, Fr. Richard Shonka earned a master’s degree in mathematics at the same university. Each of the Shonkas maintained their section of the science departments in a high degree of excellence. While at the U of C, Fr. William was an adviser to Enrico Fermi who worked on the Manhattan Project, which led to the Atomic Bomb. He often bemoaned that fact with his fellow monks, but his grasp of radiation was needed — then and after — for other projects born at (then) St. Procopius College.

The Shonka brothers also invented and manufactured teaching aids not available at that time: a 6-foot model slide rule, plaster and wooden models for spherical trigonometry, and a spherical blackboard. The skill of these scientists was also helpful for engineering problems on campus — surveying and topographical plotting for the excavation of the “slough,” (Lake St. Benedict) and a Science Hall, begun in 1939, planned and constructed without a contractor or architect — all done with capable skills of monks and craftsmen available on campus.

In 1954, Frank Shonka, Ph.D., lay brother of Frs. William and Richard, established the Physical Science Laboratory at St. Procopius College after leaving a position at Argonne National Laboratory. With funding from the Atomic Energy Commission to develop a program focusing on implementation for nuclear research, Shonka invented a black conducting plastic that reacts to radiation like human tissue. This material was used to fabricate dosimeters and ionization chambers to measure radiation levels. This early radiation monitoring was used in hospitals, power plants and space pursuits.

The St. Procopius College Physical Sciences Lab was also involved in unmanned space exploration to the moon by contributing conducting plastics — as part of the cosmic-ray integrating ionization chamber used by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at California Institute of Technology (JPL) to study the Van Allen radiation belt, particularly cosmic rays. James Van Allen, University of Iowa, founder of the radiation belt, used the conducting plastics on the first U.S. unmanned satellite in 1958. In the early 1960s, JPL investigated properties of the Van Allen radiation belt as part of the Ranger 1 and Ranger 2 satellites.

From the very beginning, following the Benedictine tradition, classics were important at St. Procopius College. They were strengthened in the 1920s and 1930s as more Benedictines earned higher degrees. Music and drama were added to the curriculum. The College band and orchestra, as well as the drama group, took their skills on the road from 1923 through the 1930s, playing and acting in many areas of the Midwest. Art, art history and art criticism were also added to the curriculum. Unfortunately, because of financial restraints, the college/community theater program was terminated in 1978. ➤
Below: An early physics experiment. Above: The College orchestra preparing to set off on tour in the early 1920s.


Above: The science world welcomed the Jurica Biology charts that Fr. Hilary used as valuable visual learning techniques in class. Below, left: Thomas Havlik, middle football player, would grow up to become Abbot of St. Procopius. Below, right: Groundbreaking for Jaeger Hall, presided over by Abbot Ambrose Ondrak, November, 1950. St. Joseph Orphanage (now Benet Academy) is in the background.
David Rausch, Ph.D., in the late 1960s teaching in the lecture hall of the original Science Building.
Athletics also made excellent progress at St. Procopius College during the 1920s. The varsity baseball and football teams won the Northern Illinois College Conference championship in 1924. Until 1926, varsity basketball was limited for lack of a playing court. The gymnasium was the basement area at the far south end of the Abbey portion of Benedictine Hall. The ceiling was much too low; pillars obstructed the court and the terrazzo floor made basketball very difficult.

On May 29, 1925, Abbot Valentine Kohlbeck, O.S.B., broke ground for a new gymnasium. Student cheers and tractor noise vied with one another, and the work began immediately. The dedication of the gymnasium on May 18, 1926, coincided with the 25th jubilee of the College’s move to Lisle. When the new gym was completed, the old area was converted to a library. As the college expanded, almost every floor, section and area of Benedictine Hall was used for up to six different things over the years. Space was utilized very well.

The monks stamped a second motto into their lives. They are known as the American-Cassinese Benedictines because their origin is the famous Abbey of Monte Cassino in Italy, the last foundation of their founder, St. Benedict. That Abbey was destroyed and rebuilt four times from 585 A.D. through the Second World War. Their ancillary motto became “cut it down and it will grow.” Abbot Procopius Neuzil, O.S.B., one of the founders of the College, remarked on his deathbed in 1946 — “What we have built, it remains for you to preserve.” Nothing was cut down, but the University definitely continued to grow.

Because of the Depression in 1929, and for the next two years, there was a considerable drop in enrollment. The financial hardship caused many parents to send their sons to schools closer to home. During that time, major improvements could not take place, but the monks with the help of local labor and equipment excavated an area that produced Lake St. Benedict and the excavated earth produced a baseball diamond.

Another project was the Mother of Grace Shrine. The senior class of 1935 collected rocks from the fields, donated their labor and purchased a statue of Mary. This grotto was dismantled when Founders’ Woods, the student apartment complex, was built in 2000. The Ave Maria shrine, in a different area, was built in 1954 and was renovated and dedicated in 2003.

The campus grew quiet as young men went off to fight in World War II. Only high school students and seminarians remained. However, there was still need for income. Some of the monks became military chaplains, and several monks taught at DePaul University’s Army and Air Force Specialized Training Programs.

For several years they continued to teach at DePaul during summer sessions. While there Fr. William Shonka, chair of the DePaul Science Department, met Rose Carney, mathematics professor, who came to St. Procopius College in 1947. She was the first female faculty member.

As the war came to an end, former students, new students and veterans who took advantage of help made available by the “GI Bill of Rights” increased the enrollment. In 1947-48, Memorial Field, northeast of the gymnasium, was constructed as a memorial for the alumni who died in the war. The administration was reorganized and a Dean of Men was established. Students moved into a new dormitory, Jaeger Hall, in December 1951.

In 1955, the college sought accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA). One condition for accreditation was that the high school could not occupy the same campus as the college. This called for radical reorganization.

The children in St. Joseph’s Orphanage had been moved to Joliet, which allowed the Academy to move off the College campus into that building. The new St. Procopius Academy opened in the 1956-57 school year. It was later named Benet Academy and became co-educational with students from Sacred Heart Academy. Suddenly, St. Procopius was all college and seminary. Everything was different — the curriculum, the faculty and the administration.

Before 1956, the Abbot was always the president, but the chief administrator was the Rector. In 1956, the Rector position was eliminated and a monk, Fr. Adolph Hrdlicka, O.S.B., was named the College president. At that time, the Abbot also became the Chancellor of both College and Academy.

The faculty was changing as well. Benedictine monks were distributed between the Academy and College. In 1956, there were 36 Benedictines on the college faculty, and nine lay teachers. Ten years later, the faculty totaled 16 Benedictines and 64 lay teachers, 16 of whom were part-time. The final version of the self-study was presented to the NCA on June 27, 1957 and St. Procopius College was granted full accreditation in 1958.

An office of public relations and development was established in anticipation of further growth and changes. Long-range building plans were designed to include Kohlbeck Hall, a dormitory dedicated on March 28, 1960; Lownik Library, dedicated on April 12, 1964; and a third residence hall, Neuzil, was completed in 1969. The Science Learning Center, later renamed Scholl Science Center, was completed for natural sciences, mathematics and the Jurica Museum.
EXTRAORDINARY CHANGES TOOK PLACE DURING THIS TIME. On June 1, 1968, the Abbey approved a new College constitution and by-laws, and a 13-member lay advisory board was organized. The character of the College had also grown. In 1935, 25 percent of the students were Illinois residents. In 1956, 82 percent were from Illinois, and almost half of them were commuters. By the 1980s more than half of the students were from the neighborhood — DuPage County.

The College had changed from an ethnic national institution to a private college, and enrollment went from 200 to more than 700. Adult education and evening classes were instituted in March 1959, and summer sessions in June 1961 expanded the curriculum.

In 1968, the Lay Advisory Board became the Board of Trustees. This body assumed control of the College with a possibility of having the College administered by laypersons in the future. The Abbey Chapter approved the amendment on May 23, 1968. In that same 1968 amendment, the College became co-educational. In 1970, a woman’s residence, Ondrak Hall, was added. Living in a dorm was significant in helping women become accepted and integrated into campus life. The orientation of the school changed from masculine to co-ed in four years. The dormitories on campus are named after Benedictine Abbots in memory of their contributions to the growth of the institution.

In the 1970 college catalog, the name “Benedictine Hall” appeared for the first time. It was the primary building built by the Benedictine monks, but it had never been called Benedictine Hall. It seems to be an evolutionary kind of event for prior to that catalog, the building had always been called the Administration Building or Main Building. Benedictine Hall is revered by thousands of students who attended classes there. However, because of age and deterioration, it will be demolished in 2004. Faculty, departments and classrooms have moved to other buildings.

Archbishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B., was president of St. Procopius College from 1959-65, and again when it became Illinois Benedictine College from 1971-76. He played a key role in the school’s growth, and was the last Benedictine monk to serve as president of the College. Today there are five Benedictine monks, one Benedictine sister and 27 lay people on the Board of Trustees. Fifteen Benedictine monks are actively involved as faculty, or in administrative work on the campus today, and one Benedictine Sister is an adjunct professor.

In May 1969, the Institute for Management graduated 39 students, and a Master of Business Administration degree was added. To celebrate changes and to establish a distinct identity, the College name was changed on July 1, 1971 to Illinois Benedictine College (IBC). In 1972, a consortium of colleges — Illinois Benedictine, North Central, Aurora and George Williams — collaborated to share resources and programs. The University of Illinois used the campus to house and train candidates in the Police Training Institute. That program no longer exists, but the University now has bachelor and associate degree programs for firefighters in the Lisle-Woodridge area, with classes taught in the firehouses. A similar program is being forged for policemen in Lisle and Naperville.

The Dan and Ada Rice Center was dedicated October 12, 1976. It is an athletic-recreation center with an arena, coach’s offices, classrooms, a banquet area, lockers and showers, athletic training room, weight room, cardio room and racquetball courts.

On June 1, 1976, the College hired its first lay president, Richard C. Becker, Ph.D. When George Williams College closed, Becker incorporated their graduate programs into Illinois Benedictine, emphasizing a commitment to teaching and standards reflected in the national ranking of the undergraduate science programs, and the worldwide recognition of the graduate program in Management and Organizational Behavior. During his presidency the enrollment nearly doubled from 1,400 students in 1976 to approximately 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students in 1994.

Archbishop Kucera had begun to build the College as a modern comprehensive college and encouraged student community service, all of which Becker continued. Many students tutored disadvantaged junior high students. On Becker’s watch, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) established a grant of $500,000 for ➤

## OVER THE YEARS

Data compiled by Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Abbot John Nepomucene Jaeger Fr. Ildephonse Wittman, rector</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Abbot John Nepomucene Jaeger Fr. Thomas Vopatek, rector</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Abbot John Nepomucene Jaeger Fr. Cosmas Vesely, rector</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Abbot Valentine Kohlbeck Fr. Cosmas Vesely, rector</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Abbot Valentine Kohlbeck Fr. John Cherf, rector</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>200+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Abbot Procopius Neuzil Fr. Thomas J. Havlik, rector</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Abbot Ambrose L. Ondrak Fr. Thomas J. Havlik, rector</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Abbot Daniel W. Kucera</td>
<td>$785</td>
<td>unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Fr. Daniel W. Kucera</td>
<td>$1,576</td>
<td>unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Dr. Richard C. Becker</td>
<td>$3,802</td>
<td>2,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Dr. Richard C. Becker</td>
<td>$7,510</td>
<td>2,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Dr. William J. Carroll</td>
<td>$11,665</td>
<td>2,968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rector was virtually the college president but did not have the official title. In 1956, the presidency was separated from the abbatial office and the first non-abbot presided as president.

The cost column reflects total costs for tuition, room and board per semester. Through 1954 this figure included laundry service.

The College was operating for “divinity students only” during WWII, hence the very small enrollment. Through 1934, the enrollment figures include high school, college and school of theology (seminary) students.
the Hughes Scholars program, which gave minority students desiring a career in the sciences the opportunity to attend IBC. Benedictine received three more award/grants from HHMI, bringing the total received from them to $2 million.

In 1980, Benedictine was the first college in Chicago’s western suburbs to begin an academic program in International Business and Economics to give working adults and students a background in cultures other than their own, and to develop skills for effective careers in international marketing and finance. There are now a large number of multi-national corporations headquartered in DuPage County. The I-88 East-West tollway is a high-tech corridor not far from Benedictine.

In 1981, a Scholars Program was designed for exceptionally talented freshmen. Special seminars give them a global perspective in liberal arts and science, as well as personal leadership, ethical skills and qualities.

If one is aware of the history of this institution, it provides an explanation of the charism (remaining true to its foundation). As with the monks, Benedictine University is dedicated to an ideal as well as a function. The function is to graduate students who leave Benedictine as life-long learners fully prepared for a profession and for life. The ideal is that the University community assists students in becoming responsible persons who will make positive contributions in their community, church and to the world.

In 1988, the Krasa Student Center was built — a gift to the students of IBC from the estate of John Krasa, M.D., College Trustee. Krasa was very generous to IBC over a long period of time. At that time he was one of the largest donors, and often stated that there is no place that he could buy more for his money than IBC. “It was a purchase of education,” he would proudly state.

In June 1994, after 19 years as president, Becker announced his retirement from IBC effective June 1995.

In July 1995, William J. Carroll, Ph.D., became the 10th President of then, IBC.

Many new traditions have grown on the campus. The Richard C. Becker Great Issues–Great Ideas Lecture Series was introduced in 1995. It began as an issues-oriented program providing thought-provoking lectures and discussions regarding the state of the Union, race, peace and adventures in space. The series has grown into a renowned program featuring bonafide American heroes, prominent world leaders and inspirational religious personalities.

It is one of the most visible programs in the state. Over the years, it has featured Colin Powell, Secretary of State; Nobel Laureates: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Oscar Arias, Mairead Maguire, Elie Wiesel and F.W. deKlerk, former president of South Africa; Jeane Kirkpatrick, a former U.N. Ambassador; Lady Margaret Thatcher, former British Prime Minister; George and Barbara Bush, former president and first lady of the United States; Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union; James Lovell, Apollo 13 commander; Dr. Mac Jemison, Astronaut; Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State; and Rudy Giuliani, former Mayor of New York City and Time magazine’s 2001 Person of the Year. General Tommy Franks (Ret.) was the speaker for 2004. The University pledges to continue to bring renowned, relevant and respected guests to the institution, and to advance a commitment to diversity and outreach. The University is able to do this with support from Nicor, the Chicago Tribune, Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation, Borse Family Endowment and the Village of Lisle.

IBC continued to expand with the introduction of doctoral and master’s degree programs. With these additions, it officially changed its name to Benedictine University on April 19, 1996.

The first Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast in DuPage County in 1996 led to an annual tradition (nine years) for Benedictine University, in collaboration with the College of DuPage. It is a celebration of the rich multicultural heritage that is the basis of this community. In his introduction and welcome for that first breakfast, Carroll said that this celebration recognizes that within our differences we find uniqueness — as individuals and as a nation.

During the past few years, the University began investigating the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP), an alternate self-study offered by the NCA. Benedictine was accepted as an AQIP institution in February 2003. Personnel from all areas of the University are involved — to look more closely at a self-improvement approach to the institution. AQIP involves administration, faculty, staff and support persons. Five action projects are making a significant difference in the University because they involve everyone and everything about the institution: 1) Develop an understanding of what it means to be a Catholic University grounded in Benedictine tradition, 2) Strive for academic excellence, 3) Increase revenues, 4) Improve the graduation rate of all student groups and 5) Strengthen communication and collaboration.

In the fall of 2000, Benedictine opened an on-campus, alternate form of housing called Founders’ Woods. One, two and four
bedroom furnished apartments allow residents options at an affordable cost. This is definitely new housing for a changing, growing student population. The six buildings are named after former abbots or presidents.

On August 29, 2001, Birck Hall of Science, Founders’ Woods and Kindlon Hall of Learning were dedicated. The Kindlon Hall of Learning houses an academic learning center, an educational technology development center, classrooms, computer labs and a four-story library with study rooms and multi-media labs. The Birck Hall of Science houses 34 laboratories that cover everything from anatomy to senior physics, individual research labs, a Tellabs Lecture Hall and the Jurica Museum.

The Jurica and Shonka legacies remain strong today. There will always be a great need for scientific knowledge and research. One unique feature of the science departments — biology, biochemistry, health sciences, molecular biology, environmental science and chemistry — is that undergraduate students engage in research and often deliver their findings at regional or national conferences. Several important endowments have implemented unique research opportunities for undergraduates, while strengthening traditional classroom studies.

In January 2003, Benedictine University formed a partnership with Springfield College in Illinois (SCI), located in the state capital. Founded by Ursuline Sisters, SCI has a pronounced Catholic identity and is the only Catholic institution of its kind in the capital.

With advertisements and open house events, SCI is slowly turning its enrollment around. In the Fall 2003 term, third-year courses were introduced while adult education courses continued to expand. In 2004, SCI will be a four-year college. With the approval of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education, Benedictine University and SCI will merge. These endeavors make Benedictine University a regional university. This partnership makes both institutions unique — for higher education is a very competitive market.

The Village of Lisle and Benedictine are collaborating on a sports complex on Benedictine property. When complete, it will include a lighted artificial surface football field with a nine-lane track and seating for nearly 3,000, a lighted baseball field with seating for 750, a lighted softball field and two practice fields. Groundbreaking took place in February 2004 and the development is moving right along. This is an exciting venture for Benedictine and the Village of Lisle.

Currently, Benedictine University includes students of almost every ethnic and racial group. For the past few years, U.S. News & World Report® has consistently ranked Benedictine University high among the “Top 10 Schools in the Midwest for Campus Diversity.” Money magazine ranks the institution under “America’s Best College Buys,” as one of the top 10 Colleges/Universities in the nation with the highest percentage of graduates entering graduate school. One of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) studies ranked Benedictine University first in the state of Illinois and 29th (top three percent) nationally, for the percentage of its graduates who went on to earn doctoral degrees in all fields of study. It was ranked 5th nationally in physics and astronomy and 11th nationally in chemistry.

Benedictine University, a comparatively small institution in the Midwest, continues to stretch like a giant. Always strong in its liberal arts and science programs, science graduates have competed well with the best in the nation. Early pioneers built a strong foundation, and professors have continued to pick up the torch and give students a high quality education and experience. The vision is for Benedictine University to be a Catholic University in the Benedictine Tradition that provides a values-centered liberal arts education enriched by its excellence in science.

The story of this institution is a history of growth. The growth is apparent in a series of epochs that began with the name changes. In the early years of St. Procopius College issues were local. As Illinois Benedictine College, the institution began to move into broader fields, and as Benedictine University, issues and challenges are global. The University has adapted to technology and expanded its use of state-of-the-art software. The world has changed, and the University with it. It continues to grow in a new century.

St. Benedict’s Rule for Monks begins with the word “listen.” At Benedictine University, we believe in the importance of listening to one another. We listen, and often hear an echo of Abbot Procopius Neuzil’s final words to his community — “What we have built, it remains for you to preserve.” We might also add — “and to grow.”

Now you too, can tell our story.
The Sports Complex at Benedictine University in Lisle

Donation Opportunities

Founded in 1887, Benedictine University has been nourishing the minds and spirits of students for more than a century. Now, Benedictine will enhance its efforts to enrich the bodies of students through intense athletic competition and physically challenging individual endeavors.

The Sports Complex at Benedictine University in Lisle is scheduled to open in the fall of 2004 (see page 34 for more details).

Community Impact
The Sports Complex at Benedictine University will provide a venue to provide top quality football, soccer, track, softball and baseball fields for Benedictine University and the local community, which will in turn, attract visitors to Lisle. This joint-use facility will attract a variety of local, regional and national sporting and related events, increasing visits from out-of-town users and spectators to the Benedictine University campus. This means more exposure for the University and an increase in the number of people who will stay in Lisle hotels and patronize Lisle businesses.

The Need For Support
In January 2004, the Village of Lisle approved a formal agreement with Benedictine University for construction of a joint-use sports complex. The project requires the Village to fund approximately $5.5 million toward the construction by raising the local Hotel/Motel tax from three to five percent. Additional costs required beyond the funds from the tax increase must be raised by Benedictine University.

The funds provided by the tax increase cover only the cost of the lighted artificial surface football stadium and the track. Funds are needed to complete the softball and baseball fields, locker rooms, scoreboards, clocks, concession area, press box, restroom facilities, meeting rooms and suites and changing rooms for officials. Benedictine University must raise at least $5 million to complete the project in its entirety.

Giving/Sponsorship Opportunities
You can support the Sports Complex at Benedictine over a maximum 10-year period as a one-time sponsorship or as a renewable sponsorship.

Please call the Office of the President at (630) 829-6004 to discuss your participation.

Football Stadium and Track

Scoreboard Signage Advertisements
- Main Permanent $25,000 — one opportunity annually
- Side Tri-Vision $15,000 each — six opportunities annually

Concourse Signage Advertisements
- Back-lit $7,500 each — six opportunities annually

Other Signage Advertisements
- Hanging Banners $5,000 each — 10 opportunities annually
- Cup Holders $12,500 — one opportunity for entire complex (One-time cost includes baseball stadium) plus $2,500 annually

Naming Opportunities
- Football Stadium $1,500,000 over 10 years
- Individual Seats $1,000 each — 500 opportunities annually (with nameplates)
- Locker/Training Building $500,000 over 10 years
- Football Field $350,000 over 10 years
- Track $350,000 over 10 years
- Concession Stand $150,000 over 10 years
- Press Box $100,000 over 10 years
- Suites $50,000 each over 10 years
- Hall/Wall of Fame $100,000 over 10 years (includes listing of all major donors)

Baseball Stadium/Field and Softball Field

Baseball Scoreboard Signage Advertisements
- Main Permanent $25,000 — one opportunity annually
- Side Tri-Vision $15,000 each — six opportunities annually

Other Baseball Signage Advertisements
- Hanging Banners $5,000 each — seven opportunities annually
- Cup Holders $12,500 — one opportunity for entire complex (see football stadium)

Naming Opportunities
- Baseball Individual Seats $1,000 each — 500 opportunities annually (with nameplates)
- Baseball Field $500,000 over 10 years
- Baseball Press Box $100,000 over 10 years
- Softball Field $350,000 over 10 years
Boxer Elizabeth Henehan Donates Winnings To Benedictine University

Professional boxer Elizabeth Henehan (pictured with Benedictine president, Bill Carroll and former Golden Gloves Champion and alumnus Jim Ryan) is ranked 6th in the nation for her weight and is the reigning U.S. amateur champion and Golden Gloves Champion. Henehan made a commitment at the beginning of her career to donate half of all her winnings for charitable reasons. She recently chose to donate half of her $1,000 purse to Benedictine University because of its commitment to education and to further the goals of a Catholic, liberal arts college. †

The Time Is Right For A Gift That Gives Back

Some people would like to provide a generous donation to Benedictine University, but have concerns about their future income. There is a beneficial way to satisfy both of these desires — a special type of gift that provides you with guaranteed annual income and a tax deduction.

Recently, Benedictine University has received three such generous gifts called charitable gift annuities. The Most Reverend Daniel Ryan, D.D., Anne B. Klick, aunt of Fr. Michael Komechak, O.S.B. and Dr. and Mrs. Frank McCarthy, former faculty of Benedictine University, have each given gift annuities valued at no less than $10,000. They have seen the benefits of this type of giving.

How do charitable gift annuities give back to you?

• You receive quarterly, semi-annual or annual income for the remainder of your lifetime.
• The amount you receive is fixed, so it is a predictable source of funds.
• The income from this gift is significantly greater than stock dividends, CD interest or bonds — providing a 6.5 percent rate of return for an individual aged 70.
• The income is taxed at less than ordinary income tax rates.
• You receive a tax deduction at the time the gift is made.
• Save more by substantially reducing your capital gains taxes by giving a gift of appreciated stock or other assets.

The charitable gift annuity agreement is very simple and requires no attorney. For an example of income and tax benefits that apply to your particular situation, call Brad Carlson at (630) 829-6362. †

Give a Little to Change A Lot

Krasa Center Capital Improvement Project

We need your help. To realize our mission of providing a Catholic and Benedictine education to our students, the University must continue to provide a state-of-the-art facility staffed by the best faculty and staff available.

One way we are doing this is by making capital improvements to our existing buildings. The Krasa Center has served the University well over the years. The time has come to update it to better serve the needs of today’s students and for the University to operate more efficiently.

Please consider contributing to the Krasa Center Capital Improvement Project. Your gift will make a difference. There are many opportunities available. For more detailed information go to http://www.ben.edu/resources/capital_campaign/ or contact Brad Carlson, bcarlson@ben.edu, (630) 829-6362. †

An Opportunity To Leave Your Mark:
The Memorial Walkway Plan Is Underway

A new “Lane of Memories” is being built along the roadway running in front of Lownik and Scholl Halls. This walkway will consist of two rows of elm trees running on both sides of the road with benches for sitting and reflecting. As a member of the Benedictine University community, please consider dedicating one of these trees and benches in your name, your family name or in memory of a loved one.

Picture this significant column of trees as a reminder of you (or a loved one) as a part of this community — to those who walk this campus now and in the future. What a beautiful addition to the University.

This is your opportunity to plant something for others to see and appreciate, and know that you have been here. It will be a work in progress and a beautiful sight.

Trees and benches can be placed in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one.

For $1,500 a tree will be planted and an engraved plaque will be provided with your name and the name of your designee.

With a gift of $2,000, your donation would include a tree, an engraved plaque and a bench that will help to share in our Benedictine heritage of spirituality and commemoration of our human family.

To participate, please contact the Office of Advancement at (630) 829-6072. †
On a very cold day in January 2004, the Office of Alumni Relations moved out of Benedictine Hall to its new spacious offices located on the ground level of the Krasa Center, Room 015. “We are very happy in our new space and urge alumni to stop by for a tour,” stated Julie Nelligan, alumni relations director.

A Look At The Alumni Staff
Julie Nelligan (left), alumni relations director, is continuously looking for alumni to get involved with the University through their time, talent and treasures. Debbie Smith, assistant alumni relations director, works to answer all questions/concerns from alumni via e-mail and assists with all alumni events. †
Meet Your Alumni
Executive Board

Susan Ross, president
Susan (Udelhofen) Ross, C79, (pictured middle) graduated from Benedictine with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature/Communications. An internship during her senior year led to a 25-year career at the Telcordia Technologies Learning Center, a telecommunications training facility in Lisle. There she worked in a variety of capacities, including public relations, marketing, executive communications support and human resources. Ross and her husband, Tim, a frequent supporter of alumni events, have been married 13 years and live in Lisle. She is the stepmother to four children and has four grandchildren.

Her pastimes include reading biographies, taking walks, shopping at flea markets, dabbling in genealogy and spending time with local family members. She has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since the mid-1980s, and currently serves as president. Ross enjoys being involved in the worthwhile causes for the benefit of students, alumni, faculty, staff, abbey and the community. She felt the school was a special place when she was a student, so she values a continuing sense of belonging that comes by keeping a strong connection. She believes Benedictine University is still a place that matters and it needs people who care. Academically and culturally, the University provided the foundation for her professional and personal endeavors, and the Benedictine influence still makes a difference in her life.

As a student, Ross appreciated the quality of education, the attentive teachers and administrators and the small environment — all ingredients that made the school right for her. Now she has a particular affinity for volunteering her time at University functions. Not only does she experience personal satisfaction from meaningful extracurricular activities, but she helps the University with its goals to evolve with the changing times while keeping the Benedictine legacy alive for future generations.

Joan Henehan, vice president
Joan Henehan, C91, (pictured right) graduated from Benedictine with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology. Following graduation, she worked for the Illinois Masonic Children’s Home as a houseparent, Naperville Community Outreach as a crisis worker, Metropolitan Family Services as a case manager and most recently at Prevent Child Abuse Illinois as a prevention resource developer. Currently, Henehan is employed at Benedictine University as a development director in the advancement office. She plans on pursuing her master’s degree in the fall.

Besides being on the Benedictine Alumni Board, Henehan is also on the Board for the Glen Ellyn Kiwanis Club and is the chairperson for their Young Children Priority One Committee. She is also the founder and chairperson of the DuPage Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, a member of the Naperville Exchange Club and a member of the 18th Judicial Circuits Family Violence Coordinating Council.

In her spare time, Henehan enjoys shopping, reading and spending time with family and friends. She currently resides in Westchester, Illinois.

Patrice Kucia, secretary/treasurer
Patrice Kucia, C91, Accounting, M.B.A. ’96, (pictured left) has been a part of the Alumni Board since 2001 and currently serves as the secretary/treasurer. In her career, she is an accounting supervisor in the commercial real estate division of a global investment company.

Kucia joined the Board after seeing an announcement that the Alumni Association was looking for new members. She was looking for a way to get involved in the Benedictine campus again. Since earning a master’s degree in 1996, she had been back on campus only once a year at Homecoming. Each time, she noticed the different changes that were happening on campus and this made her realize she no longer felt connected to the Benedictine community. She decided she wanted to find a way to experience that connection she had experienced as an undergraduate and graduate student at Benedictine.

Every quarter, the Board of Directors has a meeting on the Benedictine campus. These meetings give Kucia the opportunity to visit campus and see for herself what is happening. At the meetings, the Board members get updates about events happening around campus from the staff and look for ways for the alumni to get involved in the current Benedictine community. The Board members also represent the Alumni Association at different events occurring on campus for current and prospective students, as well as alumni.

For instance, Kucia has been a speaker at the Red Carpet Day events for prospective students. Explaining what she had experienced as a Benedictine student and why she choose Benedictine. She has also volunteered at fund raising events such as the annual golf outing and the Educare Ball. At these events, she has met fellow alumni, raised money for the University and had many opportunities to network. All these events have brought her back to experience the Benedictine tradition once again. Although many of the alumni that she meets are not from her graduating class, they all still share similar stories and experiences that connect them. ♦

Meet Your Alumni Executive Board
Who am I?

Some would think that I had a rather short life in light of the age of buildings—a total of 47 years. The length of time is probably not as important when compared to all that I have seen and heard. You will hear about all the people that found a home within me, as well as all the wonderful discoveries that were made within my walls.

My life was a dream held in the minds of a lot of people on the Lisle campus prior to my beginnings in the summer of 1939. Much as is the case with anything about to be built, I was talked about and dreamed about starting when the original chemistry teacher, Fr. Cosmas Vesely, O.S.B., then turned rector, began stressing the importance of the sciences.

With the help of an architect, plans were made for me to be a two-story building, 95 feet long and 55 feet wide, along with a basement. Abbot Procopius Neužil blessed and laid my cornerstone on September 28, 1939. Most of my developmental life was reported in the Lisle campus newspaper prior to my beginnings in the summer of 1939. Much as is the case with anything about to be built, I was talked about and dreamed about starting when the original chemistry teacher, Fr. Cosmas Vesely, O.S.B., then turned rector, began stressing the importance of the sciences.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

Perhaps cutting me down puts me into that historical line with the others who build on the motto of the Archabbey of Montecassino: “Succissa Virescit” (cut it down and it will grow). Yes, I gave up my life, I was “cut down,” but I will grow). Yes, I gave up my life, I was “cut down,” but I will grow. Perhaps cutting me down puts me into that historical line with the others who build on the motto of the Archabbey of Montecassino: “Succissa Virescit” (cut it down and it will grow). Yes, I gave up my life, I was “cut down,” but only so that Benedictine University might proudly continue to move into the future, serving the many students of today as I served those of the past.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

If the Walls Could Talk

by Fr. David Turner, O.S.B., Assistant to the Provost for Academic Affairs

I am being began to take real shape. Unusually foul weather caused some delay during the winter of 1939-1940. The January 12, 1940, issue of the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.

The untimely death of chemistry professor Fr. Cyprian Tomecko, O.S.B., on June 14, 1940, put a little damper on the spirit of the builders, but work continued. In January 1942, the campus newspaper gave an artist’s conception of the new building, so I was the talk of the campus.
So, how did a guy from the third floor of Jaeger Hall get to the Oscars?

Okay, let me back up a bit. I met Andrew Stanton (director and co-writer of *Finding Nemo*) in 1995 just after returning to Los Angeles from two years in New York as one of the original writers for “Late Night With Conan O’Brien.” Like most TV writers in the mid-90s I was looking to strike it rich in the high paying world of sitcoms. While waiting for that ship to come in, I was asked to take a six-week writing assignment at Walt Disney Feature Animation punching-up dialogue for a few of their animated features. While there, I was introduced to some people from the Bay Area who worked for a company called Pixar. I was told that they were making the first computer-animated movie, something they were calling *Toy Story*. Now you have to remember that the only computer animated movie anyone really knew of was *Tron*, so although these guys seemed nice, I was a little skeptical about doing something that would look like a big screen version of Donkey Kong or Ms. Pacman.

While waiting for that ship to come in, I was asked to take a six-week writing assignment at Walt Disney Feature Animation punching-up dialogue for a few of their animated features. While there, I was introduced to some people from the Bay Area who worked for a company called Pixar. I was told that they were making the first computer-animated movie, something they were calling *Toy Story*. Now you have to remember that the only computer animated movie anyone really knew of was *Tron*, so although these guys seemed nice, I was a little skeptical about doing something that would look like a big screen version of Donkey Kong or Ms. Pacman. So in the fall of 1995, I was flown up to the Pixar studio near Oakland. There I was shown *Toy Story* about two months before it was released. As I sat in the screening room with my mouth hanging open watching Buzz and Woody come alive on screen, Andrew Stanton leaned over and said, “We want to do that with our next movie about ants.” And that is how I began work on *A Bug’s Life*.

Now at the same time I was also writing for Disney Feature Animation. They structured a contract that allowed me to work at both Pixar and Disney at the same time. That began a six-year run of work that allowed me to work on: *Mulan* (writing for Eddie Murphy’s Mushu character), *Tarzan*, *Toy Story 2*, *Atlantis, Fantasia 2000* and *Dinosaur*. In 2000, I wrote the screenplay for *The Emperor’s New Groove* and in 2003, I co-wrote *Finding Nemo*. I’m currently working on several other projects for different studios as well some work on Disney’s first computer generated movie: *Chicken Little* (which should be out in 2005).

**There are three people listed for writing *Finding Nemo*, explain how that worked.**

Every picture is different, it depends on what shape the movie is in when you’re asked to work on it. With *Nemo*, this was an original idea Andrew Stanton had been thinking about for a couple of years before he even started writing it. When we would talk during this time, I would ask him to tell me about this “mystery idea,” he would laugh and tell me, “Not yet. It’s not ready for you to see.” I didn’t even know *Nemo* was about fish until a few months before I started to work on it. Once I began work on it (January of 2002), the basic story was in place: Marlin loses Nemo, he meets Dory, Nemo is in a tank and those fish are planning an escape. The next step for Bob Peterson (a veteran Pixar artist/writer) and myself was to help Andrew define these characters, streamline the story and add humor to the already strong emotional plot.

We all worked on the script separately and together. Because an animated movie, especially a Pixar movie, is so big and so involved, Andrew would assign Bob and I different sections to write or rewrite both together and alone — he would then read everything, possibly rewrite some or all of it and then ask us to reread that. This would then be set until we recorded the celebrities and many times we would rewrite some or all of that during the recording sessions. Actors like Albert Brooks or Ellen Degeneres are so smart and funny that...
Editor’s note: From parents everywhere — thank you, David and Pixar, for that kind consideration.

How long did you work on Nemo?
Not long, about a year. Which in the four-year animation process is more like a few months.

How is it decided who works on what movies at Disney/Pixar?
Do you ever pitch story ideas?
Pixar likes to develop everything in-house. All of their ideas are original to Pixar. Disney will also develop ideas in-house, but many times they will option books or strike up a relationship with an author/filmmaker to either develop with them or buy an original idea directly.

How does writing an Oscar-winning movie change things for you?
While many studios and high-level producers have shown interest in working with me, not everyone is swayed by new success. For example, that Monday morning after the Oscars my 2-year-old daughter, Sophie, was up at 5:55 a.m. and she didn’t seem too concerned that Mom and Dad came in at 2:00 a.m. from the night before. And when I dropped my daughter, Emma, off at preschool, I was hardly noticed by the other 4-year-olds on the playground.

Anything about the ‘Oscar experience’ you would like to share?
The cool thing is that for one day you’re on the same footing as everyone else. When I stepped out of our limo Sean Connery was stepping out of his — he smiled and waved hello to me. I was able to introduce myself to Clint Eastwood without being taken away in handcuffs. When you’re nominated, you’re an equal — tomorrow it may be a lot harder for you to meet these people but you know that you’re as qualified as they are. That’s something you’ll have forever — the nomination — and hopefully you can build on that respect and get nominated again one day. That’s the first thing I said to my wife as we walked down the red carpet, “I want to do this again.”

It was also the one night my wife and I were allowed into the exclusive InStyle Oscar After-Party. Once inside the huge event, we were told of an invitation-only VIP room. We had just won an Oscar, I thought, let’s see what that gets us. At the door of this party within a party, we were told there was ‘simply no room.’ Here I was, a guy from Beverly on Chicago’s southwest side, my movie just won an Oscar, and I didn’t come here to be stopped on the one-yard line. So, I called past the wall of bodyguards, “Excuse me Elton, I was a writer on Nemo!” and Elton John, Sir Elton to you and me, turned around and said, “Well get in here then!” The bodyguards parted and my wife and I entered to join our new friends, Elton, Ben Kingsley, Robin Williams, Eddie Izzard, etc., for the rest of the evening.

What new projects are you working on?
I am currently writing a movie titled, Have Spacesuit, Will Travel. It’s a live action comedy along the lines of Back To The Future. Heyday Films is producing it for Warner Brothers. Heyday’s the company that’s made all of the Harry Potter movies. So there are a lot of reasons to be hopeful that we can make a big, fun, family movie. I’m also a consulting producer on an animated film based on the comic strip Opus” by Berkely Breathed, as well as occasional rewriting for Chicken Little at Disney.

That, along with my never-ending pursuit of attaining street cred with the kids at my daughter’s preschool, keeps me pretty busy.

Career Transitions Workshop

The Career Services/Alumni Relations Workshop “The Creative Edge: Career Transitions in Turbulent Times” was held on February 10, 2004, in the Krasa Center. Presenters Sandra Gill, Ph.D., associate professor of business and chair of the M.B.A. programs and Bob Roberts, Ph.D., president, Roberts Consulting Group and adjunct professor and administrator, M.S.M.O.B. program at Benedictine University, offered enlightening and helpful tips to approximately 50 alumni and students. This workshop helped individuals to assess personalities, pinpoint where they are in the life cycle of career transitions and help them to develop action plans toward their next career.
M.B.A. Alumni Reunion Celebrates 25th Anniversary

More than 75 alumni, faculty and guests celebrated the 25th anniversary of the first Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) graduation this past December. The holiday dinner ceremony, held in the Krasa Fireside Lounge, brought M.B.A. alumni, their guests and emeritus and current faculty together with Benedictine University leaders to honor all M.B.A. alumni.

Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B., offered the benediction and exchanged greetings with many of the alumni who remembered their experiences in Benedictine Hall. Benedictine President William Carroll recognized the contributions of all families and faculty, and emphasized the importance of continued support for private education. Daniel Julius, Ph.D., provost at the University, indicated major trends in management education, drawing from his global experience in higher education.

Two graduates of the first M.B.A. class, Thomas Evans and William Rieser (right, pictured here with professor Bruce Buchowicz), recalled special events and memories with the attendees.

Sandra Gill, Ph.D., M.B.A. department chair, honored all alumni with certificates of appreciation and an update on M.B.A. program activities. Custom book bags were presented to alumni with details on Career Services and Alumni Association activities.

“We are so proud of our M.B.A. candidates and this event initiates our alumni outreach,” said John Cicero, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, Technology and Professional Programs, who concluded the event with a special blessing for all.

More than 2,400 M.B.A. candidates have graduated from Benedictine University since 1979. The M.B.A. department is the University’s largest graduate program.

M.B.A. alumni are encouraged to contact the department to update current contact information for upcoming alumni events. Contact Judy Mikula, M.B.A. program coordinator, at jmikula@ben.edu or at (630) 829-6210. ♦

Former Mississippi Governor Winter Addressed Annual King Day Breakfast

Former Mississippi Gov. William F. Winter (pictured below, right, with William Carroll) told more than 400 people gathered in the main dining room of the Krasa Center on January 19 that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not just a martyr for black people in their struggle for civil rights.

“He died for all of us,” Winter said. “He freed us (white people), too. He freed us from the pressures of a system that enslaved white people as much as black people. We (white people) were not free to associate on an even, equal basis with black people. We have come a long way from those dark days of the 1960s, but we still have a long way to go.”

Winter, whose tenure as governor was marked by his leadership in education reform, equal opportunity and race relations, was the keynote speaker for the ninth annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast sponsored by Benedictine University, the College of DuPage, Benedictine University Adult Accelerated Cohort Programs, Holy Spirit Catholic Community and The Northern Trust Company.

A lifelong public servant and champion of education, Winter was awarded the 2001 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Award in recognition of his role in the passage of the Mississippi Education Reform Act of 1982. The act established public kindergartens for all children in Mississippi.

During his address, “Education: A Road to Equity,” Winter said that education was the key to knocking down the walls that prevent all Americans from enjoying the benefits of “the richest nation in the world.”

“We must work to remove the remaining barriers that divide us,” he said. “How do we best honor King? By working for fairness, equity and justice for everybody in this country.”

The breakfast also featured the presentation of scholarships and recognition of King Day poetry contest winners. A closing benediction was given by Reverend James Miller (below, left) from the DuPage A.M.E. Church. ♦

Photos courtesy of College of DuPage.
**SCI Update:**

Benedictine Offers Adult Psychology Program and M.S.M.O.B. At Springfield College In Illinois

Benedictine University continues to expand the educational experience at Springfield College in Illinois (SCI). A Bachelor of Arts in Psychology program is now being offered through the New Horizons Adult Accelerated Program. In addition, a Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior (M.S.M.O.B.) is being offered at the college.

The New Horizons Adult Accelerated Program gives working adults the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree on an accelerated schedule. The accelerated format delivers convenience, quality and flexibility for those adults who want to fit higher education into an already busy schedule.

The M.S.M.O.B. program at SCI is the same nationally acclaimed program that Benedictine enjoys. The Organization Development Institute ranks the M.S.M.O.B. program at Benedictine among the top three in the country. The master’s program will be the first offered at SCI.

The master’s program at SCI will be offered in an adult accelerated, cohort format. The accelerated program is designed for those who desire highly intensive curriculum in organization development and change management in a weekend-based format.

In cohort format, students pursuing a degree take courses in a specified sequence and do so together, meaning that the same group of students progresses through the program as a team from the first course to the last.

The SCI program will feature many of the same award-winning faculty members who teach at Benedictine.

---

**M.P.H. Program Is Online**

During the spring and summer of 2004, Benedictine University’s Master of Public Health Program (M.P.H.) will be adding online courses. While Internet-mediated instruction is well established, the M.P.H. program is taking a focused approach to this online mode of learning. Under a grant from SBC to develop courses, the program is developing courses that fit the following criteria:

- They are highly topical and current.
- They appeal to a national audience.
- They are highly valuable for practicing professionals.
- They are not duplicated by other such courses.

Some initial courses already fit these criteria. They include one that will prepare students to become Certified Health Education Specialists (C.H.E.S.). This is a national examination for public health educators and is a prestigious credential. Benedictine’s health education students already have the advantage of a wider and deeper range of courses than are available anywhere else in Illinois. This offering will be the perfect capstone to the program. It will also appeal to students from outside the program and the immediate vicinity.

Another such course will prepare students to take the Certified Emergency Manager (C.E.M.) examination. This is an emerging credential in an emerging field. Benedictine’s concentration in Disaster Management is already becoming well known for producing professionals in this area. Several graduates have proficient and able to address important issues facing organizations today.

A cohort format offers several advantages to students. First, all courses will be set in a two-year fixed schedule. Second, students will be working with the same group throughout the program. Third, students can complete the program in two years, taking two courses for eight quarters.

In May 2003, the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems began offering the M.S.M.I.S. Program in a cohort format at the Robert Morris College campus in downtown Chicago. The program’s unique philosophy of...
A New Golden Eagle

Steve Pribil attended St. Procopius Academy during his junior and senior years of high school (1938-40). At that time, the academy and college students formed a combined student body of about 200. He missed his graduation ceremony because he had to attend the first mass of a recently ordained priest in his hometown of Bison, Oklahoma. The priest he wanted to see was Fr. Thomas Havlík, O.S.B., who would become Abbot of St. Procopius Abbey (1971-78).

Pribil said that there were only 11 students in his class. He fondly remembers his classmates: Joe Linhart, Joe Sirovy, Robert Novak, Arthur Letcher, Michael Rab, Donald George, Frank Granhovec, Joe Hrebid, Vincent Stradal and Benedict Kuhajda.

All the students ate together in the refectory in the Main Building and the Benedictine nuns cooked the meals. The students spent Friday evenings together. A comedy film and full movie was shown in the old gymnasium every Friday evening and the following Monday they were given a pop quiz on the movie. Pribil claims he flunked these quizzes because he slept through all the movies.

Pribil got to campus by taking a train from Bison to Lisle. Because of the distance and cost, he and some of his classmates who lived far from campus did not go home for Christmas or Easter — they stayed the entire nine months on campus. During the winter months, he would ice-skate on the campus slough. One Christmas break, he and his friends stayed out too long and he got frostbite on his toes. He had to be carried back to “Old Red” because his feet hurt so badly.

Pribil has spent most of his life as a wheat farmer in Bison. He retired from farming a couple of years ago and continues to live on his farm. He walks a few miles every day, tinkers on the farm and maintains an extensive collection of toy farm equipment that he has gathered for more than 60 years. He learned to be an altar server while at St. Procopius Academy and continues to this day as an adult server in his home parish of St. Joseph.

Above: Dean John Mickus visits with the new Golden Eagle, Steve Pribil.

John Mickus, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Benedictine University, met Pribil in Bison a number of years ago. Mickus was visiting his brother, Fr. Jim Mickus, who was then assigned to St. Joseph Church in Bison. Mickus and Pribil have kept in touch over the years and in the fall of 2003, Mickus visited Pribil in Bison to present him with his Golden Eagle pin and formally welcome him into the Golden Eagle Society of Benedictine University.

Mickus said, “Steve is a kind and very welcoming man. He continues to live a life influenced by the Benedictine values he learned at the academy. I wish I had the words to describe Steve’s feelings for Benedictine University. When we last talked, a tear was in his eye as he reminisced about his teachers and friends.”
Class of ’63
Bernard Basgall, CPCU, ARM, AAI, Political Science, has been recognized as an Outstanding Course Leader by the American Institute for CPCU and the Insurance Institute of America, national educational organizations headquartered in Malvern, PA. This recognition is based on his having taught insurance and financial services courses whose students passed the national certifying examination at a level that met or exceeded the national pass ratio for that exam. Basgall is employed by the Office of the Special Deputy Receiver in Chicago as a claim examiner and serves as the vice chairman for the Insurance School of Chicago. Basgall and his wife, Carolyn, have two children and reside in LaGrange.

Class of ’66
Michael J. Merscher, Mathematics, was named Lawrence Technological University’s Faculty Person of the Year for 2003. Lawrence Technology University is located in Southfield, MI where Merscher currently resides. He is a professor of mathematics and computer science.

Class of ’83
Michael R. Gallina, Biology, is a podiatrist for the Tampa Bay Sports Medicine Center, the official podiatrists for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays professional baseball team. Gallina also is in private practice and lectures around the country on foot and ankle surgery. He and his wife, Lynne, and their son, Anthony, live in St. Petersburg, FL.

Class of ’84
Judy (Yost) Allston, Computer Science, has been named Volunteer of the Year by Brooker Creek Elementary School in Tarpon Springs, FL. Allston will be honored in March by the school and in April by the county. She qualified for this honor by putting in more than 700 hours of volunteer time over the last four years. Allston is a substitute teacher for grades K-3, physical education, music and autistic children. She resides in Palm Harbor, FL with her husband, Jim, and two children, Christine and Nathan.

Class of ’85
Annette (Markun) Koncar, Mathematics, was recently recognized for her volunteer efforts by the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA), the Association of America’s Fraternal Benefit Societies. Koncar was named fourth runner-up for the NFCA’s 2003 “Fraternalist of the Year” award, an honor recognizing the nation’s top volunteer among the 20 million members affiliated with NFCA fraternal benefit societies. She has been a member of the American Slovenian Catholic Union (KSKJ) for 25 years serving as financial director, delegate to the KSKJ national convention in 2002, and a member of the Resolutions Committee. Koncar and her husband, Raymond, reside in Joliet with their children.

Class of ’86
Tom Gallagher, M.B.A., is currently producing voiceover work for radio, television and industrial customers nationwide via the Internet. His company’s name is SmoothTalk. Gallagher and his wife, Donna, live near Indianapolis.

Class of ’89
Camda Temmen, M.D., Biology, has recently opened a private optometric practice in Mt. Zion. Temmen resides in Decatur, IL.

Class of ’91
Laura Michele Young, Marketing, has recently moved back to Illinois after five and a half years in Chesterton, IN. Young and her husband, Stephen J. Vlcek, currently reside in Wheeling.

Class of ’92
Helen Acke, History, has recently taken the position of director of marketing at Argonne Credit Union, Argonne, IL. Acke resides in Indian Head Park, IL.

we need your class notes

What’s new in your life? A marriage or a child? A new job or promotion? Have you been published or honored? Let us know!

First Name Middle/Maiden Last Name Major Class Year
Address City State Zip
Home Phone E-mail Address
Your Title/Company Name Work Phone
Job Description

Spouse’s Name Major Class Year
Tell my classmates that . . .

Please clip and mail to: Benedictine University Debbie Smith/Alumni Association 5700 College Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532 or fax (630) 829-6313 e-mail alumni@ben.edu

Who remembers these members of the Royal Court?
If you know, contact us at alumni@ben.edu.

“This is to identify ‘Fr. Ted’s chapel-goers’ on page 25 (Voices, Winter 2004). From left to right the names of these people are: Jaime Escobedo, C84; Marty Ellman, C83; Russ Travis, C82; Donna Wingels, C82; Dan Hines, C82; Fr. Ted; Bob Herrmann, C82; Kathy McCarthy, C83; Kathy Schmidt; Bernie O’Reilly, C82; and Melinda Antoskiewicz, C83.”

Submitted by James Meehan, Ph.D., C66, Retired Professor of Mathematics
Class of '93
Richard Regan, M.S.M.O.B., is currently the chairman of pathology at Arlington Ridge Pathology, S.C. Regan and his wife, Mary Beth, reside in Naperville.

Class of '94
Christopher Hayward, Social Science, is currently teaching at the Phoenix Experience, an alternative school in the Valley View School District in Bolingbrook/Romeoville. Hayward resides in Chicago.

Class of '95
Mary Jo Hazard, M.S., PCC, M.S.M.O.B., recently received her Professional Certified Coach (PCC) credential from International Coach Federation. Hazard is president of Carpe Diem Coaching and resides in Naperville with her husband, Stephen.

Class of '95
Erin M. Meere, Early Childhood Education, currently is working in customer service for Mark-It Co. Meere recently purchased her first home in Batavia, IL.

Class of '96
John J. Cabral, Social Science, was recently appointed principal at Benjamin A. Friedman Middle School in Taunton, MA. Cabral and his wife, Cristina, reside in Taunton.

Class of '97
Nicolas Greco, M.S., Psychology, has recently published a second article on imagery and reframing titled “Reframing and Wisdom Within Proverbs” in the journal *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*. Greco is a clinical research associate at Abbott Laboratories and resides in Round Lake Beach, IL.

Class of '98
Amy (Schutenhofer) Kaye, Music, will graduate from Roosevelt University in May 2004 with a Master in Music Composition. Kaye plans to pursue her doctorate in Music Composition/Theory in Fall 2004. Kaye and her husband, Christopher, reside in Chicago.

L.t. J.G. David M. McEttrick, MSC, USNR, Psychology, recently received his direct commission as an officer in the United States Navy. After completing Officer Induction School in Newport, RI, he completed the Student Naval Aerospace Program (SNAP) in Pensacola, FL where he earned his “wings of gold” as an aerospace physiologist. McEttrick will continue to train aviators in aspects of flight such as survival, acceleration and flight physiology. McEttrick resides in Orange Park, FL.

Class of '99
Mark Cote, Social Science, is in his fourth year of theology at Mundelein Seminary. Cote is active in the “Christ Renews His Parish” retreats and as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Naperville. He is now a deacon at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet.

Jason Ostby, Social Science, has recently earned a home inspectors license in the state of Illinois. He is the owner/operator of Ostby & Associates Home Inspection and resides in Crestwood, IL.

Pouya Torabi, Biology, is currently a senior account manager at GST, Inc. Torabi resides in Monarch Beach, CA.

Class of '00
Nancy B. Cobb, M.S.M.O.B., recently published a project management workbook titled “Field Proven Strategies for Managing Your Greatest Asset” McGraw-Hill 2002. Cobb is the president of her own firm, Partners in Possibilities, Inc. and resides in Western Springs, IL.

Tiffany G. Pua, Communication Arts, is currently the weekend newscast director for KOLR/KDEB-TV in Springfield, MO. Pua resides in Springfield.

Gemara Williams, Management and Organizational Behavior, and her husband, Wilson Williams, Management and Organizational Behavior ’02, have started their own business called Total Wellness. They currently reside in Aurora.

Class of '01
Connie Fuller, Ph.D., Organization Development, is currently the human resources manager for AG Communication Systems in Genoa, IL. Fuller and her husband, Brian, reside in Batavia.

Class of '03
Jorge Farelas, Philosophy, is currently studying for the priesthood for the diocese of Joliet at Mundelein Seminary. Farelas will be ordained in four years.

Marriages
Casey (Smith) Brown, Political Science ’97, was married in November 2002 to David Brown of Northfield. The couple reside in Chicago where she is an attorney specializing in civil litigation.

Mark Connelly, Management and Organizational Behavior ’00, and Sabrina (Foley) Connelly, Psychology ’01, were married in December 2003. They reside in Glen Ellyn.

Births
Andrea (Georgio) Coscino, Health Science ’88, and Joseph Coscino, M.D., Biology ’87, announce the birth of Alyssa Mia in May 2003. Sister Kaytie and brothers, Michael and Steven, welcomed Alyssa into their Naperville home.

Jill (Beda) Daniels, Spanish ’94, and her husband, Peter, welcomed Tate Wilde in November 2003. The family is at home in LaGrange.

Sharon (Kane) Garcia, Elementary Education ’82, and her husband, Steve, announce the birth of their second son, Michael Henry, in April 2003. Big brother Matthew welcomed Michael into their Homer Glen, IL home.

Julie (Dancheck) Hulsey, Psychology ’93, M.C.P. ’95, and her husband, David Hulsey, M.D., Biology ’92, announce the birth of Jackson in October 2003. Jackson joins his older brother, Matthew, in their St. Charles home. Hulsey works as an emergency room physician at Provena Mercy in Aurora and St. Alexius in Hoffman Estates.

Valerie (Fleming) Louthan, International Business and Economics ’96 and her husband, Jason Louthan, Sociology ’96, announce the birth of Ryan Michael in October 2003. They are at home in Plainfield.

Tania (Mikrut) Popp, Mathematics ’97, and her husband, Robert, announce the birth of their twin daughters, Kaitlyn Elizabeth and Hannah Maegan, in August 2003. They reside in Chicago.

Steven W. Przespoliowski, Psychology ’95, and his wife, Jill, announce the birth of their son, Ryan, in 2003.

In Memory
Laddie J. Francel, SPA ’30, passed away on December 3, 2003.

Terrence O’Brien, History ’65, recently passed away.

Stanley Viktora, Pre-Engineering ’33, passed away on December 30, 2003.

Vitality

In memory

Wear It With Pride

Benedictine University Bookstore 2004
Mementos Sampler

New items to be added soon.

Select items are available on the bookstore Web site at www.ben.blkstore.com.

For greater variety, visit the the bookstore in the Krasa Center.
Web Site Is “Golden”

Benedictine University’s Web site was awarded a Golden Web Award by the 2004 International Association of Web Masters and Designers (IAWMD) competition. IAWMD sponsors and affiliates include some of the world’s largest and most-respected companies including GE, Microsoft, Hertz, K-Mart, Amoco, TTI, Budget, FTD, Alamo, AOL, NBC and American Greetings.

Multiple judges score each Web site entry on a points-based scale focusing on design, innovation, content, interactivity, navigation, ease of use and use of technology criteria. The highest scoring sites in each entry category are then awarded the Golden Web Award.

Congratulations to the Web committee and content subcommittees for their work on development of the new site and to everyone who maintains content on the Benedictine University Web site.

Visit the new Benedictine Web site today!

More Than 30 Years of Service: Eileen Clark and Larry Kamin

Eileen Clark, associate professor of computer science and Title III professional development coordinator, reflects on Benedictine:

“In recent years I’ve been most impressed by our ability to maintain quality academic programs during periods of rapid growth and change.

The biggest motivator for me has been the dedicated faculty. While the faculty remains very involved with their disciplines, their first priority has always been their students.

My favorite quintessential memory of Benedictine is of the years I spent working with Fr. Richard Shonka. Fr. Richard was in his late 1960s when I joined the Mathematical Sciences faculty in 1971. Computer Science was a new discipline at that time, and it was rare for small private schools to be able to provide ‘hands-on’ courses in the field. In keeping with the University’s tradition of leadership in the sciences, Fr. Richard had secured a grant that funded purchase of a Hewlett-Packard 2114 computer. The computer was the size of a refrigerator and yet, as I recall, had only an 8K memory. Input was via punch cards and Teletype machines with cylindrical keys, each key the size of a finger. Fr. Richard taught a programming course and a course in numerical analysis using that computer.

In addition to Fr. Richard’s contributions in the classroom, he embodied the Benedictine spirit. He was gentle, compassionate, fun-loving and kind. He was an inspiration, both to me and to his students.

In my early years at the University, I knew all of the faculty and staff and a large percentage of the students. Now, with our greater numbers, it’s not possible to know everyone. I do miss the closeness that came with being part of that small Benedictine family. Still, greater numbers have brought greater diversity — among staff and students — and that’s a good thing.

We’re in the midst of exciting changes on campus. New buildings are going up, old buildings are coming down and construction of a new sports complex has begun. Most offices have relocated. I look forward to the time when the new campus is established and begins fostering new traditions.

I would like to see the University continue to live out its vision statement by strengthening academic programs, particularly those which integrate the sciences with the other liberal arts.

My experience at Benedictine has been very rewarding. I’ve enjoyed working with dedicated faculty and staff. I’ve met many talented students, and have been proud to see them succeed both here at Benedictine and in their years after graduation.”

Larry Kamin, Ph.D., professor of biology, reflects on Benedictine:

“My greatest impression of Benedictine is the great depth, breadth and long history of excellence in the science majors.

Even as an undergraduate biology major I wanted to teach at a nice-sized (not too big) Catholic liberal arts college. The added bonus was that it was in the Chicago area.

My favorite memory is Friday afternoons when the Biology faculty went to the Pub. We bought some beers, ate free popcorn and played pinball (and got a lot of departmental stuff done). Before that I remember all the activities of the Biology club — softball games, end-of-year picnics, zoo trips, speakers, plant sales, etc.

When I first came here in 1973, the Department of Biology had one degree program and about 60 majors. Now we have four different degree programs with around 400 majors.

In regard to the future, I believe no university can be called great without a medical school and a law school. If that is not economically possible, then expansion of the graduate programs should occur. Also, Arts and Humanities programs should be expanded and a Fine Arts Building would be nice as well.

What I have found in my Benedictine experience is that no two years were alike, no two classes were alike and no two students were alike. Experiences are created (‘People make their own history’); through persistence it is possible for ideas to come to fruition.”
Catherine Stein Arnold (Nutrition) and Christine Palumbo (Nutrition) were among the national leaders of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) who were selected to attend ADA’s first Leadership Institute held this February in Tucson, AZ. Arnold serves the ADA as Illinois Dietetic Association President, while Palumbo serves as an Illinois Delegate in the ADA House of Delegates. Participation in ADA’s invitation-only Leadership Institute, an intensive certificate-training program in the theory and practice of leadership in dietetics, was limited to fewer than 50 of ADA’s nearly 70,000 members throughout the country.

Craig Broeder (Clinical Exercise Physiology) was the invited keynote speaker this February at the second annual International Symposium on Antler Science and Product Technology in Queenstown, New Zealand. Broeder was also featured in Deer Farmer Magazine for a research project he recently undertook for the national American College of Sports Medicine meeting in June 2004 titled “The Effects of New Zealand Deer Antler Velvet Supplementation on Body Composition, Strength, and Maximal Aerobic and Anaerobic Performance.”

Jane Crabtree (Business) presented the paper, “Employees’ Perceptions of Supervisors: The Link with Satisfaction and Commitment,” at the North American Management Society/Midwest Business Association Conference in Chicago this March.

Barbara Dwyer (Community Relations) presented the keynote address, “The Silver Bullet of Employee Relations,” at the monthly meeting of the Illinois chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry in February. She also presented a half-day in-service training in January for hospital administrators and social services staff at Heinz Veterans Administration Hospital. Dwyer’s topic was “Start With Plan B,” a program of self-discovery and empowerment.

Mike Fagel (Master of Public Health) directed an award-winning project involving graduate students from both the M.P.H. and M.B.A. programs. Birute Diciunaite of the M.P.H. program and Gus Muzumdar of the M.B.A. program won third prize for their poster presentation at the February meeting of the Chicago Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Diciunaite and Muzumdar presented “Disaster Management Information: A Model for Web site Development.”


Patrick Flynn (History), Jean-Marie Kauth (Philosophy) and Martin Tracey (Religious Studies) represented Benedictine University at the Association for Core Texts and Courses conference this April in Dallas, TX. The focus of the conference was “Core Texts: Community and Culture: Working Together in Liberal Education.” Each of Benedictine University’s participants presented a paper whose titles were, respectively, “Building Community Through Logic Shopping,” “Dante’s Divine Community,” and “Aquinas’s ‘On the Eternity of the World’ as a medieval science ‘core text.’”

Mardelle Fortier (Literature) served as a panelist at a novel-writing conference at Radisson O’Hare in February. Two hundred writers, editors and agents from across the country attended the conference. Fortier won first prize in the Art of Music annual poetry contest through Piano Press (CA). The winning poem, titled “Perfect Pair,” was published along with four other poems in an anthology of Piano Press in December 2003. Fortier also published a book review on Joyce Carol Oates in the winter edition of the scholarly journal Bibliophilus. Fortier is now listed as a “resident reviewer” of that journal, which is based in West Virginia, having written seven book reviews for the publication.

Charles Ghala (Business) authored a book titled Credit Management: Principles and Practices which has just been released in its third edition. The National Association of Credit Management referred to the book as “one of the best books ever written to develop business credit managers.” He also published an article, “Credit Management: Shine a Spotlight on the Profession” in the January issue of Business Credit.

Jim Iaccino (Psychology and Sociology) wrote a manuscript on “The Shadow Destroyers in Ubaldo Ragona’s and Sidney Salkow’s The Last Man on Earth” that was published in Kinoyeq: New Perspectives on European Film (Volume 3, Issue 12). Iaccino uses a central Jungian archetype, the Destroyer, to shed new light on an overlooked Italian film adaptation of the classic Richard Matheson novel, I Am Legend. Iaccino’s article can be found at the Web site: www.kinoyeq.org/index_03_12.php. Iaccino also gave a series of Jungian film presentations to Adia E. Stevenson High School (Lincolnshire) students as part of their Odyssey Guest Artists 2004 Program in February. Iaccino’s presentations, titled “The Evolution of the Archetypal Sci-Fi Hero in the Star Wars Trilogy” and “The Fantasy Hero’s Search for the Archetypal Grail in the Indiana Jones Trilogy” relied on film clips and PowerPoint slides to illustrate key Jungian concepts in the science fiction and fantasy movie genres. Iaccino was also approached recently by one of the moderators of the www.galactica2003.net Web site (the second most frequented Web site for “Battlestar: Galactica” information in the country). Iaccino’s responsibilities will include: posting the latest news on Sci-Fi’s new Galactica series (set to premiere Fall 2004), interviewing key people associated with this production (writer Ron Moore, executive producer David Eick and actors Edward James Olmos and Mary McDonnell) and various authors of Galactica texts, plus critiquing fiction pieces submitted to the site. His interview with author Richie Levine can be found at http://www.galactica2003.net/articles/levine021904.shtml and another with the writer of the new Battlestar series, Ronald D. Moore, can be found at http://www.galactica2003.net/articles/moore030804.shtml. Iaccino has also edited two fan fiction works.


Joaquin Montero (Language and Literature), Field Director of the Short Term Study Abroad Program in Spain 2003, published his first novel: Alejandro de Macedonia 1. (Diarios de Juventud (Alexander of Macedon. Journals of Youth)) in Spain. This book is a fictitious story written in first person and based on the historical facts and life of Alexander the Great of Greece in 400 B.C. Montero is doing his book presentation and book signing in the main cities of Spain (Madrid, Valladolid, Leon, etc.) in December. The book is being translated into English for the U.S. market.

The Master of Public Health/Dietetic Internship program, under the direction of Julie Moreschi, hosted a Joint Dietetic Education Program at Benedictine University on December 1. More than 60 students from dietetic internship programs in the Chicago area attended the daylong session. The program focused on topics such as grant funding, the role of the dietitian in school lunch and the role of the dietitian in home care/hospice.
Pete Nelson (Mathematical and Physical Sciences) presented the paper “Modeling single-channel rectification in potassium channels” at the Biophysical Society’s 48th annual meeting in Baltimore in February. This research was funded by a National Institutes of Health fellowship and a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Nelson also was published in the December issue of Physical Review E. Nelson’s article, titled “Modeling the concentration-dependent permeation modes of the KcsA potassium ion channel,” explains how recent electrophysiology experiments are consistent with the x-ray structure of the KcsA channel. (This structure won Roderick MacKinnon the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry). This topic is discussed in BIOL/PHYS 323 taught by Nelson in Spring 2004. This research was also funded by a National Institute of Health fellowship and a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The article is available online at http://link.aip.org/link/?pre/68/061908.

Gail Pieper (Communication Arts) co-authored a book titled Automated Reasoning and the Discovery of Missing and Elegant Proofs published by Rinton Press. The book deals with new ways of looking at courses in logic, mathematics and automated reasoning, and also teaches research techniques in these areas. According to Rinton’s press release, Pieper’s book is the first of its kind to deal simultaneously with these diverse topics.

Ethel Ragland (Nursing and Health) presented at the International Sigma Theta Tau nursing honorary society meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Jean Lytle (Nursing and Health) also attended the Sigma Theta Tau meeting.

Nagwa Shenouda (Chemistry/Biochemistry) was the principal author and chief investigator for an article titled “The Impact of a Newly Implemented PBL Curriculum on the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners Part I: Examinations at the National University of Health Sciences” published in Teaching and Learning in Medicine, Vol. 15, No. 4, pages 233-237; 2003. The title of the article is, “The Impact of a Newly Implemented PBL Curriculum on the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners; Part I: Examinations at the National University of Health Sciences.”

Larry Smolucha (Fine and Performing Arts) completed a museum fellowship on Native American cultures of the Illinois region for the Schingoethe Museum in Aurora. Smolucha will offer a course on his fellowship research at Aurora University later this year.


Alicia Cordoba Tait (Music) has been accepted to perform a recital of solo oboe and bassoon and oboe duet repertoire at the International Double Reed Society Convention in June 2004 in Melbourne, Australia. Tait will perform a variety of works including a world premiere by composer Zae Munn.

Sarah Tibbott (Intensive English as a Second Language Program) gave a poster presentation at the Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages-Bilingual Education (TESOL- BE) Conference at Navy Pier in February. The work Tibbott displayed was a project her students performed in their writing class titled, “Flat Ben Travels the United States.”

Benedictine, Lisle Break Ground For New $8 Million Sports Complex

Predicting that the Sports Complex at Benedictine University in Lisle will be “a crown jewel for the entire west suburban region,” state Sen. Kirk W. Dillard (R-24th) joined other state, county and local dignitaries at formal groundbreaking ceremonies March 7.

“This is a wonderful addition to a great University and the Village of Lisle,” Dillard said. “This facility can host major events including some that would be national in scope. This will be a great boost for recreation and economic development in the area. It’s a real shot in the arm for all of west suburban Chicago.”

Spotlight on Alumni:

If you know of a Benedictine alumnus who deserves recognition for their above and beyond accomplishments, let us know, so we can spotlight them in an upcoming issue.

e-mail: lhale@ben.edu.

Benedictine Student-Athletes Recognized For Their Success In The Classroom

The Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) recognizes student-athletes for their academic success by naming them to the NIIC All-Academic Team in their respective sports.

Fifteen Benedictine student-athletes from five fall and winter sports teams were among those named to the All-Academic Team for athletes with a 3.50 or better cumulative grade point average (G.P.A). Four of those athletes were also named to the NIIC President’s Honor Roll for attaining a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.80 or better.
Sophomore Michelle Prather and juniors Jennifer Germino and Kortney Pope were named to the All-Academic women’s soccer team. Prather is a health science (pre-med) major, Germino is a secondary education and history major and Pope is a history education major.

Three Eagles were named to the All-Academic women’s volleyball team. Sophomore Katie Dotson is a psychology major, sophomore Monica Robinson is a business major and junior Sara Pedalik is a double major in biology and psychology. Senior Ashley Gray and junior Stacy Olah received All-Academic women’s tennis honors. Gray is a writing and publishing major while Olah is a communications major.

Three sophomore members of the NCAA Division III tournament-qualifying men’s basketball team were named to the NIIC All-Academic team. Chris Hebeler and Matt Harrison are health science majors and Jordan Gage is a secondary education major.

The All-Academic women’s basketball team included four student-athletes from Benedictine University. Junior Misty Nguyen is a business major and junior Kristin Racine is majoring in health science. Senior Julie Robinson is majoring in elementary education and senior Dalena Sass is a business major.

Pope, Robinson, Olah and Gray were also named to the President’s Honor Roll for attaining cumulative grade point averages more than 3.80.

For Benedictine itself, it means enriching the athletics program to foster the personal best in each athlete. Benedictine has been nourishing the minds and spirits of students for more than a century and now it will enhance its efforts to enrich their bodies through intense athletic competition and physically challenging individual endeavors.

Joining Dillard at the groundbreaking ceremonies were state Rep. James H. Meyer (R-48th), DuPage County Board Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom, Lisle Mayor Joseph Broda, Benedictine University Board of Trustees Chairman Will Gillett and Benedictine Chancellor Abbot Dismas Kalcic, O.S.B. Other dignitaries included members of the Lisle Board of trustees and members of the Benedictine University Board of trustees.

More than 250 people attended an open house in the Krasa Dining Room on March 5 to unveil plans for the facility. Among the guests were students, athletes, faculty, staff, parents and village and county dignitaries. Concession stands were erected inside the dining room and guests feasted on pizza, nachos and cotton candy.

The Sports Complex at Benedictine University in Lisle will feature a 3,000-seat lighted football stadium encircled by a nine-lane track, a lighted baseball stadium with seating for 750, a lighted softball field, two practice fields and other amenities.

Benedictine University, the Village of Lisle, community organizations and other groups will use the facility. Lisle High School and Benet Academy have also been invited to use the complex. Visit the Sports Complex Web site at www.ben.edu/news/sports_complex/index.asp to take a virtual tour of the facility, to learn about construction updates and to view the photo gallery.
Last season, the Benedictine University men’s basketball team did something no other Benedictine team had been able to do in more than 79 years: the team posted a winning season for the seventh consecutive year (1997-2003), surpassing the previous milestone (six) set between 1976 and 1981.

Fast forward to the 2003-2004 season. The Eagles not only posted their eighth straight winning season, they went 20-8 overall and appeared in the NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball Championship Tournament for the sixth time in the history of the program.

The Eagles won the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) tournament to earn the NIIC’s automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. The Eagles upset top-seeded Aurora University in the championship game 74-70 in February in Aurora. Benedictine’s victory snapped the Spartans’ 18-game home win streak. Benedictine faced the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Stevens Point in the first round of the NCAA tournament in March at UW-Stevens Point. The Eagles suffered an 84-58 loss in the first-ever meeting between the two teams.

Three members of the Benedictine University men’s team were named to the 2003-2004 All-NIIC team: junior Will Crawford, sophomore Matt Harrison and senior Bryan Uselding. The All-NIIC team is selected by the league’s coaches and is based on conference games only.

Senior wide receiver Sebastian Singleton, playing in the final game of his college career, broke two school receiving records against Lakeland College in November of last year.

Singleton caught 15 passes for 262 yards and five touchdowns. His 262 receiving yards broke an 11-year-old school record for the most receiving yards in a single game, and his 15 receptions broke the 30-year-old school record for receptions in a single game.

Singleton finished three catches shy of the school’s career receptions record.

Singleton, a four-time Illini-Badger Football Conference (IBFC) All-Conference wide receiver, was named the IBFC Offensive Player of the Week for the final week of the season.

Three members of the Benedictine University men’s team were named to the 2003-2004 All-NIIC team: junior Will Crawford, sophomore Matt Harrison and senior Bryan Uselding. The All-NIIC team is selected by the league’s coaches and is based on conference games only.

Two members of the Benedictine University women’s basketball team were named to the 2003-2004 All-Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) Team. The All-NIIC team is selected by the league’s coaches and is based on conference games only.

The players named to the All-NIIC team were seniors Erin McGunnigal and Julie Robinson.

McGunnigal concluded her career with 1,099 points to rank third in Benedictine University history. Robinson averaged a team-leading 12.8 points and 5.0 rebounds per game during conference play. Robinson shot 73 percent from the free-throw line and led the team with 47 assists and 49 steals.

Robinson finished her career with 893 points to tie for eighth all-time in school history.

Another senior, Dalena Sass, was named honorable mention All-NIIC. Sass averaged nine points per game while shooting 44 percent from the field, 40 percent from behind the arc and 87 percent from the free-throw line.

The Lady Eagles were 9-3 and finished second in the NIIC in both the regular-season standings and in the conference tournament. They were 15-13 overall.

Two Lady Eagles Named To All-NIIC Basketball Team

Two Lady Eagles Named To All-NIIC Basketball Team

Singleton Ends His Football Career In A Fashionable Manner

Smith Makes Quite A Splash In His Season Finale

The Benedictine University women’s and men’s swimming teams participated in the Liberal Arts Championship in February at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Sophomore Tim Smith made quite an impact as he single-handedly earned a 10th-place finish for the men’s team.

Smith recorded season-best times in every race in which he competed. He placed 15th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.08. Smith placed 12th in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:53.54. He concluded the three-day meet with an impressive seventh-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 50.43.
For more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (630) 829-6080 or visit www.ben.edu/alumni.

Guilt-free Golf One day of golf can give someone a life with a higher education.

You are cordially invited . . .

10th Annual President’s Invitational Golf Outing

Monday, July 12, 2004
Cress Creek Country Club
Naperville, Illinois

Special sponsorship opportunities are available. Proceeds go to the President’s 21st Century Fund in support of student scholarships.

In this issue

THE STORY OF BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY

A life in balance

2004 Upcoming events

June 5
Graduate Commencement

July 12
10th Annual
President's Invitational Golf Outing

October 15-17
Homecoming

November 6
39th Annual Educare Scholarship Ball

www.ben.edu

The Story of Benedictine University
A life in balance

Benedictine University
5700 College Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532
(630) 829-6000